



Aruba's ONLY English newspaper

San Nicolas Shines during the Light Parade



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LIVE ENTERTAINMENT 7 DAYS A WEEK

PROFESSIONAL COMPLIMENTARY
PICTURES ON TUESDAY AND FRIDAY



SUNDAY:
MARRYBELL MADURO
SINGER
6:30 - 8:30pm

MONDAY:
ANGELA FLORES
VIOLINIST
6:30 - 8:30pm

TUESDAY:
JEAN PAUL
SAXOPHONIST
6:30 - 8:30pm

WEDNESDAY:
EDDIE KROON
SINGER 4:00 - 6:00pm

MAILLEYN ALVARADO
VIOLINIST 6:30 - 8:30pm

KARAOKE 9:00 - 11:00pm

THURSDAY:
MARRYBELL MADURO
SINGER
6:30 - 8:30pm

FRIDAY:
RICKY THOMAS
GUITARIST
7:00 - 9:00pm

SATURDAY:
EDDIE KROON
SINGER
4:00 - 6:00pm

ANGELA FLORES
VIOLINIST
6:30 - 8:30pm

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Federal workers will get a new email demanding their accomplishments, with a key change

By **CHRIS MEGERIAN** and **ADRIANA GOMEZ LICON**
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Federal employees should expect another email on Saturday requiring them to explain their recent accomplishments, a renewed attempt by President Donald Trump and billionaire entrepreneur Elon Musk to demand answers from the government workforce. The plan was disclosed by a person with knowledge of the situation who requested anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss it publicly. The first email, which was distributed a week ago, asked employees “what did you do last week?” and prompted them to list five tasks that they completed. Musk, who empowered by Trump is aiming to downsize agencies and eliminate



Elon Musk speaks during a Cabinet meeting with President Donald Trump at the White House in Washington, Wednesday, Feb. 26, 2025.

Associated Press

thousands of federal jobs, said anyone who didn’t respond would be fired. Many agencies, meanwhile, told their workforces not to respond or issued conflicting guidance. The second email will be delivered in a different

way, according to the person with knowledge of the situation, potentially making it easier to discipline employees for noncompliance. Instead of being sent by the Office of Personnel Management, which functions as a human resources agency for the federal government but doesn’t have the power to hire or fire, the email will come from individual agencies that have direct oversight of career officials. The plan was first reported by The Washington Post. It’s unclear how national security agencies will handle the second email. After the first one, they directed employees not to write back because much of the agencies’ work is sensitive or classified. Less than half of federal workers responded, according to the White House. □

Trump to sign order Friday designating English as the official language of the U.S.

By **MICHELLE L. PRICE**
Associated Press

President Donald Trump is ex-

pected to sign an executive order on Friday designating English as the official language of the United States, according to the White House. The order will allow

government agencies and organizations that receive federal funding to choose whether to continue to offer documents and services in language other than English, according to a fact sheet about the impending order. It was not immediately clear when on Friday that Trump planned to sign the order. The executive order will rescind a mandate from former President Bill Clinton that required the government and organizations that received federal funding to provide language assistance to non-English speakers. Designating English as the na-

tional language “promotes unity, establishes efficiency in government operations, and creates a pathway for civic engagement,” according to the White House. More than 30 states have already passed laws designating English as their official language, according to U.S. English, a group that advocates for making English the official language in the United States. For decades, lawmakers in Congress have introduced legislation to designate English as the official language of the U.S., but those efforts have not succeeded. □

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President Donald Trump stands before British Prime Minister Keir Starmer arrives at the White House, Thursday, Feb. 27, 2025, in Washington.

Associated Press

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Zelenskyy leaves White House without signing minerals deal after Oval Office blowup

By WILL WEISSERT, ZEKE MILLER and JUSTIN SPIKE
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump berated Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy for being “disrespectful” Friday in an extraordinary Oval Office meeting, then abruptly called off the signing of a minerals deal with the U.S. that Trump said would have moved Ukraine closer to ending its war with Russia.

The astonishing turn of events could scramble international affairs in Europe and around the globe. During his visit with Trump, Zelenskyy had planned to sign the deal allowing the U.S. greater access to Ukraine's rare earth minerals, then hold a joint news conference.

Instead, Ukraine's leader left the White House shortly after Trump shouted at him, showing open disdain. Untouched salad plates and other lunch items were being packed up outside the Cabinet room, where the lunch between Trump and Zelenskyy and their delegations was supposed to have taken place.

The White House said the Ukraine delegation was told to leave.

“You’re gambling with World War III, and what you’re doing is very disrespectful to the country, this country that’s backed you far more than a lot of people say they should have,” Trump told Zelenskyy.

The last 10 minutes of the nearly 45-minute meeting devolved into a tense back and forth between Trump, Vice President JD Vance and Zelenskyy, who had urged skepticism about Russia's commitment to di-



President Donald Trump, right, meets with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy in the Oval Office at the White House, Friday, Feb. 28, 2025, in Washington.

Associated Press

plomacy, citing Moscow's years of broken commitments on the global stage. Zelenskyy's main objective going into the sit-down had been to press Trump not to abandon his country and to warn against moving too closely to Russian President Vladimir Putin. Instead he got shouted at while Trump appeared to play up the drama for the cameras.

At one point, Zelenskyy said Putin had broken “his own signature” 25 times on ceasefires and other agreements and could not be trusted. Trump responded that Putin had not broken agreements with him and mostly ducked questions about offering security guarantees to Ukraine, saying he thought the minerals deal which is now on-hold would effectively end the fighting.

Things first got testy after Vance challenged Zelenskyy, telling him, “Mr. President, with respect, I think it's disrespectful for you to

come to the Oval Office to try to litigate this in front of the American media.” Zelensky tried to object, prompting Trump to raise his voice and say, “You’re gambling with the lives of millions of people.”

A short time later, Trump posted on his social media site that he had “determined” that Zelenskyy “is not ready for Peace.”

“He disrespected the United States of America in its cherished Oval Office. He can come back when he is ready for Peace,” Trump wrote. Trump also suggested that the heated exchange was productive: “Much was learned that could never be understood without conversation under such fire and pressure. It's amazing what comes out through emotion.”

Democrats immediately criticized the administration for the breakdown. Democratic Senate leader Chuck Schumer said Trump and Vance “are doing Pu-

tin's dirty work.”

The testy exchange was especially surprising since it came a day after Trump struck a more conciliatory tone toward Ukraine, calling America's support for the country against Russia's invasion “a very worthy thing to do” and disclaiming any memory that he had called the Ukrainian leader a “dictator.”

Trump and Zelenskyy spoke politely, even with admiration, of one of another for the first half hour of the meeting. But, when the Ukrainian leader raised alarm about trusting any promises from Putin to end the fighting, Vance offered his strong rebuke for airing disagreements with Trump in public. That instantly shifted the tenor of the conversation as Zelenskyy grew defensive and Trump and his vice president blasted him as ungrateful and issued stark warnings about future American support. “It's going to be a very

hard thing to do business like this,” Trump said to Zelenskyy as the two leaders talked over each other about past international support for Ukraine.

Vance then interjected, “Again, just say thank you,” blasting Zelenskyy for litigating “disagreements” in front of the press.

Trump seemed pleased that the scene was being recorded on camera. “I think it's good for the American people to see what's going on,” he added.

Trump also suggested that Zelenskyy should not be demanding concessions.

“You're not in a good position. You don't have the cards right now,” Trump said pointing his finger toward Zelenskyy. “With us you start having cards.”

Shortly before the meeting ended, Trump offered, “This is going to be great television.” Before the blowup, Zelenskyy had been expected to sign a landmark economic agreement with the U.S. aimed at financing the reconstruction of war-damaged Ukraine, a deal that would have closely tied the two countries together for years to come.

As Ukrainian forces hold out against slow but steady advances by Russia's larger and better-equipped army, leaders in Kyiv were pushing to ensure a potential U.S.-brokered peace plan would include guarantees for the country's future security.

Many Ukrainians fear that a hastily negotiated peace especially one that makes too many concessions to Russian demands would allow Moscow to rearm and consolidate its forces for a future invasion after current hostilities cease. □

Mexican drug lord Rafael Caro Quintero pleads not guilty in 1985 killing of US federal agent

By PHILIP MARCELO and JENNIFER PELTZ
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — After years as one of U.S. authorities' most wanted men, Mexican drug cartel boss Rafael Caro Quintero was brought into a New York courtroom Friday to answer charges that include orchestrating the 1985 killing of a U.S. federal agent. Caro Quintero pleaded not guilty to running a continuing criminal enterprise. Separately, so did Vicente Carrillo Fuentes, the leader of another cartel. He's accused of arranging kidnappings and killings in Mexico but not accused of involvement in the death of DEA agent Enrique "Kiki" Camarena.

Caro Quintero, Carrillo Fuentes and 27 other Mexican prisoners were sent Thursday to eight U.S. cities, a move that came as Mexico sought to stave off the Trump administration's threat of imposing 25% tariffs on all Mexican imports next week.

For Camarena's family, the arraignments marked a long-awaited moment.

"For 14,631 days, we held on to hope that this moment would come. Hope that we would live to see accountability. And



In this image released by the FBI shows the wanted posted for Rafael Caro Quintero.
(FBI via Associated Press)

now, that hope has finally turned into reality," the family said in a statement thanking President Donald Trump and everyone who has worked on the case over the years.

The White House, in a statement Friday ahead of the arraignments, called Caro Quintero "one of the most evil cartel bosses in the world."

In exchange for delaying tariffs, Trump had insisted that Mexico crack down on cartels, illegal immigration and fentanyl produc-

tion.

But members of Mexico's Security Cabinet on Friday framed the transfer of the 29 prisoners as a national security decision.

"It is not a commitment to the United States. It is a commitment to ourselves," said Mexican Attorney General Alejandro Gertz Manero.

"The problem of drug trafficking and organized crime has been a true tragedy for our country."

Security Secretary Omar García Harfuch said the

people sent into U.S. custody were "generators of violence" in Mexico and represented a security threat to both countries.

Caro Quintero has long been one of America's top Mexican targets for extradition.

He was one of the founders of a Guadalajara-based cartel and one of the primary suppliers of heroin, cocaine and marijuana to the U.S. in the late 1970s and 1980s.

Caro Quintero had Camarena kidnapped, tor-

tured and killed in 1985 because he blamed the agent for a raid on a huge marijuana plantation the year prior, authorities said. Camarena's killing marked a low point in U.S.-Mexico relations and was dramatized in the popular Netflix series "Narcos: Mexico."

Caro Quintero had been 28 years into a 40-year sentence in Mexico when an appeals court overturned his verdict in 2013.

After his release, he returned to drug trafficking and unleashed bloody turf battles in the northern Mexico border state of Sonora until he was arrested by Mexican forces in 2022, authorities said.

Caro Quintero told the Spanish newspaper El País in 2018 that he "never went back to drugs."

"Whoever's saying it is a liar!" he said, according to the newspaper.

"I'm not working anymore, let's be clear about that! I was a drug trafficker 23 years ago, and now I'm not, and I won't ever be again."

The U.S., which had added Caro Quintero to the FBI's 10 most wanted list in 2018 with a \$20 million reward, sought his extradition immediately after his 2022 arrest. □

Texas measles cases rise to 146 in an outbreak that led to a child's death

By JAMIE STENGLE
Associated Press

DALLAS (AP) — The number of people with measles in Texas increased to 146 in an outbreak that led this week to the death of an unvaccinated school-aged child, health officials said Friday.

The number of cases Texas' largest in nearly 30 years increased by 22 since Tuesday. The Texas Department of State Health Services said cases span over nine counties in Texas, including almost 100 in Gaines County, and 20 patients have been hospitalized.

The child who died Tuesday night in the outbreak is the first U.S. death from the highly contagious but

preventable respiratory disease since 2015, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said. The child was treated at Covenant Children's Hospital in Lubbock, though the facility said the patient didn't live in Lubbock County.

Robert F. Kennedy Jr., the nation's top health official and a vaccine critic, said this week that the U.S. Department of the Health and Human Services was watching cases but dismissed the outbreak as "not unusual." The virus has largely spread through rural, oil rig-dotted West Texas, with cases concentrat-

ed in a "close-knit, under-vaccinated" Mennonite community, state health department spokesperson Lara Anton has said.

Gaines County has a strong homeschooling and private school community. It is also home to one of the highest rates of school-aged children in Texas who have opted out of at least one required vaccine, with nearly 14% skipping a required dose last school year.

Texas law allows children to get an exemption from school vaccines for reasons of conscience, including religious beliefs. □



A sign is seen outside a clinic with the South Plains Public Health District Sunday, Feb. 23, 2025, in Brownfield, Texas.

Associated Press

Russia offers to restore direct air links with the U.S., during Istanbul talks

By VLADIMIR ISACHENKOV
Associated Press

MOSCOW (AP) — Russia has offered the United States to restore direct air links between the two countries during the latest round of consultations with Washington, the Russian Foreign Ministry said Friday. Russian and U.S. diplomats met in Istanbul on Thursday to discuss normalizing the operation of their respective embassies that has been crippled by multiple round of diplomats' expulsions during previous years. The Russian Foreign Ministry hailed the talks as "substantive and businesslike" and noted in a statement that "joint steps were agreed upon to ensure unimpeded financing of the activities of diplomatic missions of Russia and the United States on a reciprocal basis and to create appropriate conditions for diplomats to perform their official duties." The ministry said that it also



Journalists work outside U.S. Consul General residence where Russian and U.S. diplomats are met to discuss operation of embassies, in Istanbul, Turkey, Thursday, Feb. 27, 2025.

Associated Press

offered the U.S. "to consider the possibility of restoring direct air traffic." It didn't add any details or possible time frame, and there was

no immediate comment from Washington on the issue. U.S. and other Western nations cut air links with Russia as part of a slew of

sanctions imposed on Moscow after it sent troops into Ukraine on Feb. 24, 2022. The U.S.-Russia talks in Istanbul followed an un-

derstanding reached during U.S. President Donald Trump's call with Russian President Vladimir Putin, and negotiations between senior Russian and U.S. diplomats and other officials in Saudi Arabia earlier this month.

In Riyadh, Moscow and Washington agreed to start working toward ending the fighting in Ukraine and improving their diplomatic and economic ties. That includes restoring staffing at embassies, which in recent years were hit hard by mutual expulsions of large numbers of diplomats, closures of offices and other restrictions.

The U.S. State Department said that during Thursday's talks in Istanbul, the U.S. delegation "raised concerns regarding access to banking and contracted services as well as the need to ensure stable and sustainable staffing levels at the U.S. Embassy in Moscow." □

North Korea says it performed cruise missile tests, days after it vowed to respond to U.S. threats

By HYUNG-JIN KIM
Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — North Korea said Friday it had test-fired strategic cruise missiles to demonstrate its nuclear counter-attack capability, days after it vowed to respond to what it called escalating U.S.-led hostilities since the start of the Trump adminis-

tration. The official Korean Central News Agency said leader Kim Jong Un oversaw the missile tests off the country's west coast Wednesday. They were the North's fourth missile launch event this year and the second of President Donald Trump's second term. The launches were designed to inform "the ene-

mies, who are seriously violating our security environment and fostering and escalating the confrontation environment," of the North Korean military's counter-attack capability and the readiness of its nuclear operations, KCNA said.

Kim expressed satisfaction over the results of the drills and said the military must be fully ready to use its nuclear weapons, the report said. South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff said in a statement later Friday that it had de-

tected and tracked the North Korean launches. It said the South Korean military maintains readiness to repel any potential provocation by North Korea based on the solid South Korea-U.S. military alliance. □



In this photo provided on Friday, Feb. 28, 2025, by the North Korean government, North Korean leader Kim Jong Un oversees the test firings of what it says are strategic cruise missiles off the country's west coast Wednesday, Feb. 26, 2025.

Associated Press



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Suicide bomber kills senior cleric at pro-Taliban seminary in northwest Pakistan on eve of Ramadan

By RIAZ KHAN

Associated Press

PESHAWAR, Pakistan (AP)

— A senior cleric and five other worshippers were killed Friday in a suicide bomb attack at a pro-Taliban seminary in northwest Pakistan ahead of the fasting month of Ramadan, police said.

It was one of at least four attacks throughout Pakistan, two of them at mosques, which were unusual both in their number and timing just before the holy period marked by daily fasting in the Muslim-majority country.

Many people also were wounded during the attack at the mosque inside the Jamia Haqqania seminary, in the Akora Khattak district of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province. No group immediately claimed responsibility for the suicide blast, which happened after an attacker gained entry despite tight security.

Hamidul Haq, the head of the seminary and leader of a faction of the Jamiat-e-Ulema Islam (JUI) party, was among the dead, according to district police chief Abdul Rashid.

Haq was the son of the late Maulana Samiul Haq, who was considered a founding figure for both the Afghan and Pakistani branches of the Taliban. Many Afghan Taliban had studied at Haq's seminary over the



Security officials examine a damaged security forces' vehicle at the site of a bomb blast in Quetta, Pakistan, Friday, Feb. 28, 2025.

Associated Press

past two decades.

His family confirmed his death and appealed to his followers to remain peaceful.

Pakistan's President Asif Ali Zardari, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and other leaders condemned the attack, which came ahead of the Muslim holy month of Ramadan, which is expected to start either on Saturday or Sunday depending on the sighting of the crescent moon.

The Afghan Embassy in Islamabad said the bombing was a cowardly act.

The Pakistani Taliban, also

known as Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan, or TTP, denounced the attack and the killing of Haq, and offered condolences to families of the victims.

'Powerful explosion' More than a dozen police officers and the seminary's own security were guarding the mosque when the attack occurred, provincial police chief Zulfiqar Haameed said.

Yawar Zia said he was among the police officers on security duty when he was hit and wounded by splinters from the bomb. He was transported to the Qazi

Hussain Ahmed Hospital by ambulance.

"After offering prayer, Hamidul Haq was leaving the mosque to go home and as he reached the main gate, a powerful explosion occurred, and I fell to the ground, losing consciousness," Zia told The Associated Press from his hospital bed.

Zahir Shah, a worshipper, said that hundreds of people were leaving the mosque after offering prayers when he heard a powerful blast. He said Haq was returning to his home within the seminary

accompanied by guards when the attack occurred. Shah described a chaotic scene with blood and body parts scattered around, adding that the number of casualties could have been much higher had the bomber struck during the prayers.

Surge in violence

Elsewhere in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province on Friday, a gunman opened fire inside a mosque in the northwestern Swat Valley, killing at least two people, police said in a statement. The motive for the attack was not immediately clear. Police said a suspect was arrested and the investigation is ongoing.

Also, a roadside bomb exploded near a pharmacy in Orakzai district on Friday, killing two people and wounding six others, police officer Adnan Khan said, without providing further details.

The province has seen several attacks in recent years. In February 2023, as many as 101 people, mostly police officers, were killed when a suicide attack targeted a mosque in Peshawar, the capital of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province.

Separately, six militants were killed on Friday during a security operation in North Waziristan, a district in the restive northwest near the Afghan border, the military said in a statement. □

Freight train derails in Czech Republic, causing major chemical fire



Firefighters battle a large fire of a derailed freight train carrying benzene, a highly flammable and toxic liquid, Friday, Feb. 28, 2025, in Hustopece nad Becvou, Czech Republic.

Associated Press

PRAGUE (AP) — Czech firefighters were battling a major chemical blaze in eastern Czech Republic on Friday after a freight train derailed and carcinogenic benzene from damaged tank wagons caught fire.

The derailment took place near the station in the town of Hustopeče nad Bečvou around noon local time (1100 GMT), with the fire sending thick black smoke into the air visible from a long distance. The cause of the derailment was under investigation. No one has been injured.

The nearest houses in the town are located about 500 meters (around a quarter-mile) from the fire, but the smoke hadn't reached them.

Firefighters said that 15 of the 17 tanks in the train were on fire. Each tank contained about 60 metric tons (66 tons) of the toxic substance. They used a helicopter to contain the fire while their counterparts from neighboring Slovakia were on the way to help.

Authorities said that no levels of dangerous substances exceeding limits have been detected in the town, but advised that residents there and in nearby towns and villages don't open their windows, and stay indoors.

Firefighters originally said that the train was carrying benzol, but later said it was benzene, which is used to make various chemical substances. □

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Your dream home in Aruba starts with a conversation!

Aruba's Bocas: home to the rarest fossil reefs on the planet!

(Oranjestad)—If you've been to the northern coast of Aruba already, you've probably noticed how the ground differs entirely from the sandy beaches on the southern part of the island. These hard surfaces, with sharp bumps and holes are actually fossilized coral reefs, of which its growth and changes can be traced back to the last glacial period.

On May 30 2023, geoscientists, Dr. Patrick Boyden from the Marum research

faculty at the University of Bremen, Prof. dr. Alessio Rovere from the Ca' Foscari University of Venice and Prof. dr. Gianfranco Scicchitano, from the University of Bari Aldo Moro, presented their research on these fossilized coral reefs at the University of Aruba. Their focus for their research included studying the health and formation patterns of these coral reefs, and to investigate how these reefs have responded and can respond to fluctuating sea levels or extreme weather,



like hurricanes and tsunamis.

Through underwater and land surveillance, and 3D models of the reefs, they were able to narrow down when these formations started to take place. They were also able to track the fluctuation of sea levels during the past hundred or even thousands of years, and the effects that this fluctuation has had on the coral reefs of the windward side of Aruba.

These findings can certainly put things into perspective. The ground on which we have walked many times in the northern part of the island hold such rich history, history that dates back to a time that most of us cannot even imagine. As the scientists themselves have pointed out, these fossilized reefs on the windward side are truly an incredible and rare remnant of geological history, as they provide a clear view of how these reefs have formed.

This research is also important for the future of coral reefs on the island. By studying rising sea levels and climate impact on these coral reefs, we are able to take concrete action in protecting and preserving our coral reefs. So, if you are ever visiting one of the bocas or driving along the northern part of the island, please be conscious to help protect our natural historical remnant. Oh, and wear (coral-friendly) sunscreen! ☐

Feeling parched? Grab refreshment by the side of the road!

(Oranjestad)—Touring the island in the blistering heat can leave one feeling rather thirsty and looking to cool off. Luckily there are a few stands along the roads of Aruba that can offer you just what you need: a nice, refreshing beverage!

These "coconut stands" can be found at several locations on the island, where you can cool off with delicious smoothies, drinks, snacks, and of course, fresh coconuts! Perfect during family outings around the island, these stands can be found in the following locations:

- Near the red Anchor in San Nicolas
- On the Linear Park in Oranjestad (in front of airport runway)
- At the California Light House hill
- Bushiribana Gold Mill Ruin
- Bushiribana Beach (Near the Ling & Song Supermarket)



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San Nicolas Shines During the Light Parade



Thursday night, the Light Parade took place in San Nicolas, once again showcasing the incredible, dazzling work of each participating group.

The parade started in front of Joe Laveist Sport Park and followed the route through Torenstraat, Caya Dick Cooper, B van der Zeen, Zeppenveldstraat, Captain R. Rodgers, Lagoweg, Bernhardstraat, Dr. Scheapmanstraat, Pastor Hendrikstraat, and ended back at Joe Laveist.



The parade featured the presence of TOB Carnival Group, Dushi Carnival Group, Aruba Tourist Carnival Group, Champagne Carnival Group, Royal Carnival Group, Colours Carnival Group, Empire Carnival Group, and finally, OPC with the last lap.

Participants shined in their carnival outfits, enjoying the lively atmosphere of San Nicolas, while spectators also had a great time experiencing the vibrant Light Parade.

Don't miss the Carnival grand finale this weekend, starting with the Carnival Grand Parade in San Nicolas today, followed by Carnival Grand Parade in Oranjestad tomorrow! □



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High school students of Oranjestad enjoyed their school parade!



Yesterday morning, high school and advanced school students from Oranjestad danced and jumped during their Carnival 71 school parade. A total of 11 high schools and advanced schools participated in the parade, which was filled with a vibrant carnival atmosphere.

Students from EduCampus, Mon Plaisir HAVO/VWO, Mon Plaisir MAVO, Colegio Arubano, International School of Aruba, Colegio San Antonio, SPO Santa Cruz, La Salle College, Maria College, and EPB Oranjestad enjoyed the school parade.

Spectators along the route also enjoyed the unique atmosphere of Aruba's carnival. The parade started at 10 AM from the Aruba Entertainment Center and ended at Plaza Turismo (Linear Park). □



CRAVING THE BEST BURGER ON THE ISLAND?

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Meet our Aruban trailblazers: Padu Lampe

(Oranjestad)—This week we remember one of our most beloved Aruban giant, Juan Chabaya Lampe—better known as Padu Lampe or Padu del Caribe. As one of the most important and renowned artists in the Aruban cultural sphere, Padu's long career led him to be honored today as "the father of culture."

On April 26th, 1920, Juan Chabaya Lampe "Padu Lampe/Padu del Caribe" was born in Nassaustraat, Oranjestad. He grew up in a happy musical environment, and it is because of this that he developed a love for music. Starting from the age of 12, he was agile in the clarinet, mandolin and cuatro. Henry Lampe, his father, was also a well-known pianist and musician.

In a publication of the informative seminar, "Observer", from august 1st, 1962, Padu's many merits and friendly personality stood out. It was said that he was an excellent pianist with a personal style and full of surprises. Secondly, though the composer was not too familiar with music theory, he showed innovations in his composi-

tions. Lastly, Padu was a promoter of Creole music around the world. One of the most important moments in Aruban history, in which he was able to witness first-hand, was the first radio broadcast on the island on March 20th, 1954. Here, he was accompanied by Antillean guitarist Julian Coco and Hubert "Loi" Booi. In the art world, Padu was also a known painter. During his youth, he made several painting using his unique style. In 1939, he participated in an art exhibit in New York, where he won a bronze medal for his painting "Typical View of Aruba."

Padu remained a popular artist within the Dutch Antilles and the Caribbean as a pianist, singer, author and painter. Padu Lampe was a local artist who became renowned in Venezuela, Colombia, The U.S. and The Netherlands too. In the 1950s, he sold no less than 50 thousand copies of his long-playing albums (LPs). Padu Lampe was a multifaceted artist, inspired by his interest in parapsychology and supernatural phenomenon. He wrote three books in Papiamentu on the subject in 1986,



which was published by the Aruban National Printing Press with sponsorship provided by the Prince Bernhard Funds Netherlands Antilles. Besides that, Padu passed his exam on "Society to Advanced Ethical Hypnosis" in 1964 in New Jersey. He received a certificate as a hypnotechician, which gave him the authority to practice hypnosis in some states.

Over the course of his career, he received many accolades and awards in Aruba, Curacao, Venezuela and the Netherlands.

Padu del Caribe passed away on November 29th, 2019, at the age of 99 years old. Padu brought the Aruban culture around the world. His legacy will remain ingrained in the Aruban cultural history, and he will be known forever as one of the most influential trailblazers of our community.



Padu will always be in Aruba's heart, because he had composed various special songs dedicated to the mothers of the island; his song "Sonrisa di un baby" ("A baby's Smile") has been written in three different languages. Padu also wrote our national anthem "Aruba Dushi Tera", along with Mr. Rufo Wever. This song was approved by the government of Aruba and was named the official anthem of the island in 1976. Other songs that have been considered as being almost a second anthem for Arubans is the special composition he wrote for his wife Daisy Croes called "Abo so". Daisy later passed away in 1994. □



NOORD - It is hard to imagine this happening today, but years ago people dumped all kinds of refuse straight into the ocean, including old cars, and their household garbage, which of course included lots of glass. Over the next 30 years the pounding waves cleaned the beach, by breaking down everything but glass and pottery. The pounding waves washed the trash up and down, back and forth. Tons of polished, broken glass pieces were created by the pounding surf. These smoothened, colored glass particles then settled along the sea shore in millions, and that is why you

Another Treasure of Aruba's Beaches: Sea Glass!

can find these beautiful and colorful pieces on the north shore beaches of Aruba.

Especially on the strip on white sand between the famous Natural Bridge" and the huge red anchor close to "Grapefield" beach you will be able to find your own pieces of sea glass. The sea glass that was created is the product of a very long and interesting process. It can take anywhere from 10 to 30 years to make sea glass. The name for any piece of glass that finds its way to the ocean and tumbles around in the water long enough is "Sea glass."

The colorful pieces of glass are being used for decoration, handcrafts and jewelry! Once glass makes its way

into the ocean, the glass is broken up into shards and is tumbled around in the water, where sand and other rocks act like sandpaper to smooth out its rough edges. Sometimes as the sea glass is passed through fire, it becomes fire glass, the rarest of sea glass with certain inclusions, just like precious gems. For years, the water beat against the different kinds of trash being dumped. Glass, household appliances and even motor parts were discarded on the beach. The waves and weather conditions wore down the overwhelming amount of garbage in the water, creating millions of beautiful smooth rocks.

It's hard to believe the short-sighted mistakes we were making that could have po-

tentially ruined these beautiful beaches. But thanks to natural processes, the ocean transformed the trash into the sea glass. Each colored gem on the beach has its own story.

The ruby red glass stones are typically from old car tail-lights.

Then, the sapphire rocks are the remnants of broken apothecary bottles. The most common and the easiest to find are the brown (Amstel & Polar beer), green (Heineken & Balashi beer) and clear glass which are the soft much loved "soft drink" bottles.

If you like to see the sea glass for yourself, and be in awe of the power of nature, rent a car or jeep and go explore

our deserted beaches on the north side of the island. Make it a fun family day! Even if we didn't mean to pollute the Beaches how we did, it is inspiring to see just how the earth can correct our mistakes.

Funny, how trash can change into treasures!

Everybody knows that you are not allowed to take local shells home, but the people working at the airport have no problem you taking sea glass home. A few of those pieces make great souvenirs. You can place them in a wine glass or large bottle for decoration and every time you look at it a smile will light up your face thinking back of your unforgettable Aruba vacation! □

Aruba's cultural and literary development: Then and now

(Oranjestad)—The Aruban culture has seen many substantial developments over the course of a century. With the introduction of the Lago Refinery at the turn of the 20th century, followed by the breakout of the Second World War and the general incentive for political independence during the mid-century, a cultural identity on the island began to take form and have since developed through international and local influences.

In the pre-industrial era of the 19th century, much could not be said about a cultural identity on the island. Still being a part of a Dutch colonial territory at the time, as well as not having political or economic autonomy (Curacao was the center of commerce, cultural life, and political management of the Netherland Antilles at the time), the small population of Aruba consisted mostly of farmers and fishermen, tending to their crops and their cattle, or going out to fish to provide for their family. As Quito Nicolaas states in his article *Historia di Literatura Arubiano: E Bida Cultural* (Literary History of Aruba: Cultural Life), "during the pre-industrial period, there were no significant economic activity that could have created a cultural ambience, with only one way to generate profit at the time for the subsistence of Aruban families."

It wasn't until the introduction of the Lago Refinery in San Nicolas in 1928, that the island saw a small boom in cultural manifestations and entertainment, as farmers left the 'cunucu'



(country) life to work in the refinery, which resulted in Aruba acquiring a different economic pillar. Before this, entertainment and cultural manifestations were mostly experienced by local parishes and the island's elite, who often partook in cultural and entertaining activities around the island, like going to the movie theater or coming together to share poetry on Sundays after church.

Literary life

Throughout the 19th century and up until the 1940s, there were also not much trace of a cultural climate for the cultural-literary sector on the island. Primary education was introduced on the island in the mid-19th century, followed by secondary and higher education around the late 30's and 40's. It wasn't until the 1950s, with the introduction of the E.R.N.A agreement in 1951 and the signing of the Statute in 1954, which allowed more space for and control over the economic and cultural devel-



opment of Aruba, that the literary life on the island began to grow substantially compared to decades before. This was in response to local institutions established in the 1940s for cultural and literary growth on the island, but that did not yet capture the attention of the general public. The 1950 brought with it a boom of literary production on the island, like those of V.S. Piterrella, as well as migrant authors José Ramón Vicioso y Rings William Rufus, who have also contributed to the literary development on the island.

The literary movement was further promoted by local broadcasters Voz di Aruba and Radio Kelkboom, with their regular broadcast of literary works.

The 50s and 60s also saw the influence of international cultures, especially that of the United States. During this time, because of international influences as well as the continued prosperity of the oil refinery, cultural traditions in Aruba began to really take form and become widespread, as different worldly and local concepts were introduced in the Aruban soci-

ety. With the establishment of local television broadcast station Tele-Aruba in 1963, and with time and possibilities, local programs such as "Nos Tera" ("Our Land") started to pay more attention to the Aruban culture and worked to form a cultural consciousness within the community. The 1960s also saw the rise of local authors and artists, who were more comfortable in producing works in our native tongue, Papiamentu, but who also produced works in Spanish, English and Dutch. This new phenomenon was in response to the interaction between economic growth, individual prosperity, cultural life and literary expression.

The 21st century

Nowadays, international influence on our culture is still prevalent, especially those from Latin America, the United States and The Netherlands. Nevertheless, there also exists a strong cultural identity and traditions that are exclusive to the Aruban culture, often manifesting during traditional celebrations, like Dia di San Juan/ Dera Gai (St. John's Day), Dia di Himno y Bandera (National Hymn and Flag Day), Camping during Easter and much more. With the surge of social media in the last decade, artistic voices, especially those of the younger generation, has become even more prevalent and easily accessible to the community of Aruba through online platforms such as Facebook, Instagram and TikTok. □

Source: *Historia di Literatura Arubiano: E Bida Cultural* by J.R. "Quito" Nicolaas



CROSSWORD
By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

- 1 Vodka cocktail
6 Day in Hollywood
11 Stream
12 Rodeo rope
13 Blitzen's boss
14 Mischievous
15 Commentary piece
17 Chiding sound
18 Clan-destine networks
22 Kaffiyeh wearer
23 Fine point
27 Cockpit worker
29 Stylishly quaint
30 Lipstick mishaps
32 Resting on
33 Some Washington urbanites
35 Drake's music
38 Victories
39 Customary
41 Skydiving need
45 Following
46 Is fond of
47 Spud
48 Fencing swords

DOWN

- 1 "60 Minutes" network
2 Singer Rita
3 Abel, to Adam
4 Water vessel
5 Giraffe's cousin
6 Water vessel
7 Squeak stopper
8 Water vessel
9 "How sweet —!"
10 Went under
16 Finish
18 Easy targets
19 Prudish

A	C	T	O	R		O	P	A	R	T
P	R	O	V	E		N	A	C	H	O
P	A	G	A	N		E	X	C	O	N
A	N	G	L	E	S		O	D	E	
L	I	E		W	A	V	E	R	E	D
L	A	D		A	M	E	N	D	S	
			T	B	O	N	D			
	T	W	E	L	V	E		A	W	E
B	E	A	D	E	A	R		L	E	E
E	A	R			R	A	S	C	A	L
A	M	B	L	E		B	L	O	K	E
R	U	L	E	R		L	I	V	E	R
S	P	E	A	R		E	D	E	N	S

- 20 New Haven school
21 Water vessel
24 "— boy!"
25 Magnetic metal
26 Cuts off
28 Water vessel
31 Biol. or geol.
34 Husband of une tante
35 Reddish brown
36 Largest continent
37 Fourth-down play
40 Highest card
42 Luau instrument
43 Golf peg
44 Twisty turn

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9	10
11						12				
13						14				
			15		16			17		
18	19	20					21			
22					23		24	25	26	
27				28		29				
30					31		32			
			33			34				
35	36	37		38						
39			40			41	42	43	44	
45						46				
47						48				

AXYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

3-4 **CRYPTOQUOTE**

VDH VK Z AUXHC PLOZA, VDL
RZHG OAOLFOX KVL Z BGUNO,
HGOI ENVXOX BUHGUI Z
PLOZA. — OLIOXH PVBXVI
Cryptoquote: ALL CATS LOVE FISH
BUT FEAR TO WET THEIR PAWS. — WILLIAM
SHAKESPEARE

Cruise ship Schedule: March 1 - 8 2025

			ARR	DEPT	BERTH	
SAT	01	STAR PRIDE THE WORLD	06.00 09.00	18.00 ****	B C	1 1
SUN	02	AIDAPERLA THE WORLD - DEPT. CELEBRITY BEYOND	08.00 **** 09.00	18.00 23.00 21.00	B C I	1 - 1
MON	03	CELEBRITY ECLIPSE EMERALD PRINCESS	08.00 09.00	**** 18.00	B C	1 1
TUE	04	CELEBRITY ECLIPSE - Dept. CARNIVAL HORIZON CELEBRITY REFLECTION FREEWINDS	**** 09.00 08.00 06.00	21.00 23.00 21.00 ****	B C I E	- 1 1 1
WED	05	MARELLA DISCOVERY AIDABELLA	08.00 10.00	20.00 22.00	B C	1 1
THU	06	CORAL PRINCESS	08.00	17.00	C	1
FRI	07	NORWEGIAN JEWEL	11.30	20.30	C	1
SAT	08	SEVEN SEAS GRANDEUR	10.00	23.00	C	1

Helpful tips for your stay on Aruba

(Oranjestad)—When traveling to another country, especially for the first time, it is always better to be over-prepared than under-prepared. That is why we have a list of basicbut important information that we think may come in handy to Aruba's visitors.

Electrical power

Aruba generally operates on 110V to 127V supply voltage and 60Hz. There are also three types of outlets used on the island: type A with two flat prongs; type B with two flat and one grounding prong, and on occasion, type F with two round prong and two earth clips on the side. However, Type A is most commonly found in homes and establishments.

Drinking water

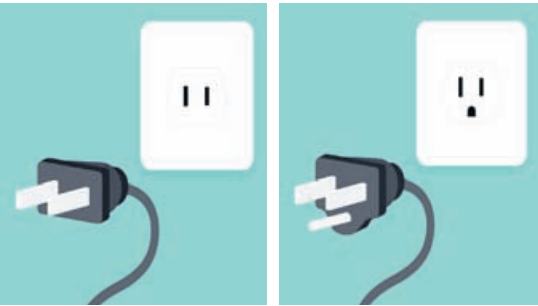
The water that flows through the sinks of every house, hotels and other establishments is distilled and perfectly safe to drink. Aruba's drinking water exceeds WHO's international standards for water quality, so there is no need to buy bottled water from the store.

Supermarket hours

Supermarket hours may vary depending on where you are staying on the island. Generally though, most supermarkets are open from 8am to 9 or 10pm, Monday through Saturday. On Sundays, supermarkets generally close earlier; mostly around 2pm.

Safety

Since February 2024, Aruba has been categorized as the safest country in the Caribbean by The Telegraph, and many tourist that visit have often told us how they feel safe to explore the island or walk around at night. However, rare incidents do occurs, so keep yourself and your belongings safe.



Scientists scorn EPA push to say climate change isn't a danger, say just look around at the world



The Jeffrey Energy Center coal-fired power plant operates near Emmett, Kan., Jan. 25, 2025.

Associated Press

By SETH BORENSTEIN

AP Science Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — As President Donald Trump's administration looks to reverse a cornerstone finding that climate change endangers human health and welfare, scientists say they just need to look around because it's obvious how bad global warming is and how it's getting worse. New research and ever more frequent extreme weather further prove the harm climate change is doing to people and the planet, 11 different scientists, experts in health and climate, told The Associated Press soon after word of the administration's plans leaked out Wednesday.

They cited peer-reviewed studies and challenged the Trump administration to justify its own effort with

science.

"There is no possible world in which greenhouse gases are not a threat to public health," said Brown University climate scientist Kim Cobb. "It's simple physics coming up against simple physiology and biology, and the limits of our existing infrastructure to protect us against worsening climate-fueled extremes."

EPA's original finding on danger of greenhouse gases Environmental Protection Agency chief Lee Zeldin has privately pushed the White House for a rewrite of the agency's finding that planet-warming greenhouse gases put the public in danger.

The original 52-page decision in 2009 is used to justify and apply regulations and decisions on heat-trapping emissions of greenhouse

gases, such as carbon dioxide and methane, from the burning of coal, oil and natural gas.

"Carbon dioxide is the very essence of a dangerous air pollutant. The health evidence was overwhelming back in 2009 when EPA reached its endangerment finding, and that evidence has only grown since then," said University of Washington public health professor Dr. Howard Frumkin, who headed the National Center for Environmental Health at the time. "CO2 pollution is driving catastrophic heat waves and storms, infectious disease spread, mental distress, and numerous other causes of human suffering and preventable death." That 2009 science-based assessment cited climate change harming air quality, food production, forests, water quality and supplies, sea level rise, energy issues, basic infrastructure,

homes and wildlife.

A decade later, scientists document growing harm. Ten years later, a group of 15 scientists looked at the assessment. In a paper in the peer-reviewed journal *Science* they found that in nearly all those categories the scientific confidence of harm increased and more evidence was found supporting the growing danger to people. □



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San Nicolas

Imsan 24 hours
Tel. 524 8833

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Kibrahacha: Tel. 583 4908

San Nicolas:

Aloe: Tel. 584 4606

OTHER

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Blood Bank Aruba 587 0002

Urgent Care 586 0448

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EMERGENCY

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Oranjestad	527 3140
Noord	527 3200
Sta. Cruz	527 2900
San Nicolas	584 5000
Police Tipline	11141
Ambulancia	911
Fire Dept.	115
Red Cross	582 2219

TAXI SERVICES

Taxi Tas	587 5900
Prof. Taxi	588 0035
Taxi D.T.S.	587 2300
Taxi Serv. Aruba	583 3232
A1 Taxi Serv.	280 2828

TRAVEL INFO

Aruba Airport	524 2424
American Airlines	582 2700
Avianca	588 0059
Jet Blue	588 2244
Surinam	582 7896

AID FOUNDATIONS

Aruba Food Bank	Tel. 588 0002
FAVI- Visually Impaired	Tel. 582 5051
Alcoholics Anonymous	Tel. 736 2952
Narcotics Anonymous	Tel. 583 8989
Fundacion Contra Violencia Relacional	Tel. 583 5400
Centre for Diabetes	Tel. 524 8888
Child Abuse Prevention	Tel. 582 4433
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2 Bed WK 51 Ocean view	\$65,500
2 Bed WK 52 Ocean View	\$65,500
2 Bed WK 7 and 14 - all views	

GOLD SEASON

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2 Bed Oceanside	\$15,500
2 Bed Ocean view	\$14,500
2 Bed Garden view	\$13,000
3 Bed Ocean view	\$30,000

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1 Bed Ocean View	\$17,000

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Meghan, the Duchess of Sussex, unveils new lifestyles brand As Ever

MONTECITO, Calif. (AP) —

Au revoir, American Riviera Orchard. Meghan, the Duchess of Sussex, has rebranded her fledgling company to As Ever just weeks after restarting her social media life under a new handle on Instagram. Meghan teased American Riviera Orchard last year with jars of preserves. The new company has a fresh website she unveiled Monday with a rare photo of 3-year-old Lilibet, her youngest child with Prince Harry.

Lilibet is seen frolicking on a well-manicured lawn with her mother.

In a video posted to her new Instagram account, @Meghan, she said the name American Riviera, a moniker for her home turf near Santa Barbara, California, felt limiting in its support of locally grown and made products. She said she wants to include a wider range of goods under her new umbrella.

The news comes two weeks before the debut



Meghan, The Duchess of Sussex, speaks during South by Southwest Conference in Austin, Texas, on March 8, 2024.

Associated Press

of "With Love, Meghan," her lifestyles show on Netflix. Meghan said Netflix has come on board as a business partner as well. She called that development "huge."

She said she chose the name As Ever in 2022. During her "Suits" years, she had a popular lifestyle blog, The Tig.

"As Ever essentially means as it's always been and

if you followed me since 2014 with The Tig, you know I've always loved cooking and crafting and gardening. This is what I do and I haven't been able to share it with you in the same way

for the past few years. But now I can," she said.

Meghan left Instagram when she got engaged to Prince Harry and spoke last year about the dangers of social media. Last March, a new account called American Riviera Orchard appeared on Instagram, saying it was created by Meghan. The unverified account included photos of a logo and link to a website to join a waitlist to learn more details.

Documents filed with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office registered the American Riviera Orchard name and sought trademark protection for a variety of goods and services. Those include textiles, cutlery, "jellies, jams; marmalades" and assorted food spreads. It also said the brand might feature "coffee services in the nature of tableware; tea services in the nature of tableware; serving ware for serving food and drinks; decanters" and other beverage ware. □

Drake settles legal action against iHeartMedia in dispute over 'Not Like Us'

By JUAN A. LOZANO Associated Press

HOUSTON (AP) — Drake has reached a settlement with Texas-based iHeartMedia in his ongoing legal dispute over Kendrick Lamar's diss track "Not Like Us," according to court records.

In November, Drake filed a legal petition in Bexar County, Texas, where San Antonio is located, alleging that iHeartMedia had received illegal payments from Universal Music Group to boost radio airplay for "Not Like Us." UMG is the parent record label for both Drake and Lamar.

The petition, a precursor to a potential lawsuit, had sought depositions from corporate representatives of both companies.

In a court document filed Thursday, attorneys for Drake said the rapper and iHeartMedia had "reached an amicable resolution of the dispute" but did not of-

fer any other information. "We are pleased that the parties were able to reach a settlement satisfactory to both sides, and have no further comment on this matter," Drake's legal team said in a statement. In an email Friday, iHeart-

Media declined to comment on the settlement. The claims against UMG remain active, and a hearing on a motion by UMG's lawyers to dismiss the petition was scheduled to be held Wednesday in a San Antonio courtroom.



In this combination of images Rapper Kendrick Lamar appears at the MTV Video Music Awards on Aug. 27, 2017, in Inglewood, Calif., left, and Canadian rapper Drake appears at the premiere of the series "Euphoria," in Los Angeles on June 4, 2019.

Associated Press

Drake has alleged UMG engaged in "irregular and inappropriate business practices" to get radio airplay for "Not Like Us." The petition also alleges that UMG knew "the song itself, as well as its accompanying album art and music video, attacked the character of another one of UMG's most prominent artists, Drake, by falsely accusing him of being a sex offender, engaging in pedophilic acts, harboring sex offenders, and committing other criminal sexual acts."

An email to a UMG representative seeking comment was not immediately answered.

In January, Drake filed a defamation lawsuit in federal court in New York City against UMG over what he alleges are false allegations of pedophilia made in "Not Like Us." Lamar is not named in the lawsuit.

The feud between Drake,

a 38-year-old Canadian rapper and singer and five-time Grammy winner, and Lamar, a 37-year-old Pulitzer Prize winner who headlined the Super Bowl halftime show on Feb. 9, is among the biggest in hip-hop in recent years.

The Federal Communications Commission sent a letter Monday to iHeartMedia's CEO and chairman, Robert Pittman, saying the commission is looking into whether the audio company is forcing musicians to perform at its May country music festival in Austin for reduced pay in exchange for favorable airplay of their songs on iHeart radio stations.

"We look forward to demonstrating to the Commission how performing at the iHeartCountry Festival — or declining to do so — has no bearing on our stations' airplay," iHeart Media said in a statement. □

Tank Davis is a big favorite in front of another big crowd in Brooklyn for title bout against Roach

By **BRIAN MAHONEY**
AP Sports Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Gervonta Davis will pack the place Saturday night, just as he always does when he fights. "Tank" set a record for a boxing card in Brooklyn with an announced crowd of nearly 19,000 fans the last time he fought there, then drew more than that in Washington and Las Vegas for his next two fights. The WBA lightweight champion's crowds are so large that they get measured against acts much bigger than boxers. The live gate at Washington's Capital One Arena for his 2023 bout broke the building record set by the Rolling Stones, and if Davis (30-0, 28 KOs) can set the overall Barclays Center record Saturday, it would again mean bumping off Mick Jagger and Co.

"I've said this before but any time Tank Davis fights, it's much bigger than another championship fight," promoter Tom Brown said. "It's an event."

Lamont Roach (25-1-1, 10 KOs) wants to be more than just the other name on the marquee in this one. The WBA super featherweight champion is moving up in hopes of adding a belt in a second weight



Gervonta Davis poses for photographs after a WBA lightweight championship boxing bout against Rolando Romero early Sunday, May 29, 2022, in New York.

Associated Press

class, though he didn't have much knockout power at 130 pounds and will have to show he can stand up to Davis' devastating punches at 135. He's given little chance of doing so. Davis is a -1600 favorite at BetMGM Sportsbook, making the three-division champion such an overwhelming favorite that a \$1,600 wager would win just \$100.

"I don't really care too much about the outside

critics," Roach said. "I know what I could do in the ring and that's the only thing that matters honestly, is that I go out and give it my all and perform. And most likely, nine times out of 10 when I do that, I'll be victorious."

How to watch on streaming and TV

The pay-per-view bout is available on Prime Video for \$79.95, regardless of Prime membership. Fans can also access the tele-

cast through traditional cable and satellite outlets and PPV.com for \$79.99.

Familiar Foes

Davis, from Baltimore, and Roach, from Washington, were amateur rivals and their teams are cordial. Davis agreed that Roach may be the most-skilled opponent he has faced, saying Roach was an "A-plus fighter."

But a friendly face won't change how much Davis wants to punch it.

"No, I'm going to do me," he said. "I'm going to do me regardless."

Critics would rather Davis do it against someone his own size, rather than another opponent coming up to fight him, or in the case of his showdown with Ryan Garcia in 2023, one who had to drop down. But the fans keep showing up no matter who is in the other corner, and Roach even thanked Davis for picking him for the payday that comes Saturday.

"He's the cash cow, he's a honcho," Roach said. "Gave me the opportunity. Let's boogie."

A lightweight unification showdown for Davis against Vasiliy Lomachenko has never materialized and a bout with Shakur Stevenson might be the preferred one nowadays for fight fans. More of those types of events now seem easier to make with Saudi Arabian funding getting rival promotional companies to work together. Davis is doing just fine no matter who or where he fights. Brown said Davis' fourth fight in Brooklyn where he won his first title in 2017 is already guaranteed to surpass the gate from his 2022 knockout of Rolly Romero. □

Embiid set to miss 40th game. 76ers yet to make a decision on injured center's next steps

By **DAN GELSTON**
AP Sports Writer

CAMDEN, N.J. (AP) — Joel Embiid will miss his 40th game of the season Saturday when the 76ers host Golden State, with no decision yet on how to proceed with his injured left knee that has put the All-Star center's immediate playing future in limbo. He concluded a series of tests on the knee earlier this week and consultations with the medical staff, front office and Embiid himself were expected to set the course for his status for the rest of the season. All options from rest to potential

surgery to playing through pain remain on the table, depending on the results of the testing and imaging. Embiid, of course, did not practice on Friday.

"They're still consulting," coach Nick Nurse said after practice. One of the preseason favorites to contend for an NBA title, the Sixers take a nine-game losing streak into Saturday's game against the Warriors. Even with the heavy slide, the Sixers were just 2 1/2 games out of a spot in the play-in tournament entering Friday's NBA games, giving the team something to cling to, even

as no matter the outcome of the testing they'll chase a playoff a spot without a healthy Embiid.

"I don't have any goals other than we're playing to win and we're playing to play better," Nurse said. "I'm not going to say anything until I get the final word. I'm going to deal with it when I get the news. I've just been trying to concentrate on the team and the doctors have been trying to figure out what's best for Joel, and then we'll figure it out from there." Embiid will miss his third straight game overall and hasn't played since

he was benched for ineffectiveness in the fourth

quarter of a loss last Saturday to Brooklyn. □



Philadelphia 76ers' Joel Embiid, left, tries to get past Brooklyn Nets' Nic Claxton during the first half of an NBA basketball game, Saturday, Feb. 22, 2025, in Philadelphia.

Associated Press

Terry Francona says his mind went right back to baseball after a needed year off

By **STEPHEN HAWKINS**
AP Baseball Writer

Terry Francona got used to getting out of bed whenever he wanted during his year away from managing, and his biggest decision then was whether to have a second cup of coffee before doing the daily crossword puzzle.

While it was a bit of an adjustment when he had to start getting up again in the predawn hours to get to the Cincinnati Reds spring training complex, Francona was quickly back to where he prefers to be every day.

"My mind went right back into baseball, and it kind of feels good," Francona said soon after starting his first camp with the Reds, who hired him in October. "I enjoy, I love coming to the ballpark. There's no place on this earth I'm more comfortable. ... This is my home and, like, grew up in this place."

The three-time Manager of the Year and two-time World Series champion, who turns 66 in April, is rejuvenated and feeling better after what he knows was a much-needed break from the grind of professional baseball. The son of a major leaguer, he was a first-round draft pick in 1980.

When Francona stepped away at the end 2023 af-



Cincinnati Reds manager Terry Francona gestures as he speaks during spring training baseball practice at the team's training facility in Goodyear, Ariz., Saturday, Feb. 15, 2025.

Associated Press

ter 11 seasons managing Cleveland, he needed a shoulder replacement and double hernia surgery. He had missed extended time in 2020 and 2021 due to health complications.

"I had a good year, man. I needed to be away from the game. And when you say that, when you know it yourself, you're probably, probably a little late. I really needed it," he said. "Physically, I was so beat up that it starts to become, you know, mental, and you start, it wears on you, and you become short on pa-

tience and things like that. Those are not good attributes for a manager. So I think I'm situated where I can do the job the way you're supposed to, the way I want to."

Cincinnati, going into its 30th season since last winning a playoff series, turned to the manager with 1,950 wins over 23 seasons with Philadelphia (1997-2000), Boston (2004-11) and Cleveland (2013-23). Bruce Bochy, who came out of a three-year retirement and immediately led Texas to its only World Series title

in 2023, is the only active manager with more wins at 2,171.

Boston ended an 86-year championship drought by winning the 2004 World Series in Francona's first season, and added another title three years later. Cleveland was coming off a 94-loss season when Francona took over and ended his debut there in the playoffs in 2013, the first of six post-season appearances that included the AL pennant in 2016 before the Game 7 loss to the Chicago Cubs in the World Series.

Tampa Bay manager Kevin Cash played three seasons in Boston for Francona, and his first coaching job was as Francona's bullpen coach those first two seasons in Cleveland. Cash is glad and certainly not surprised that Francona is back in the dugout.

"Very similar to kind of how I felt or I think how a lot of us felt with Bochy coming back. Baseball is better with both of them in it," Cash said. "I'm glad he decided, I'm glad he's healthy. ... I did not see it coming that quick. I thought for sure he'd be back because I don't know what the hell else he would do."

Minnesota Twins manager Rocco Baldelli, an outfielder for him with the Red Sox in 2009, described Francona as having a magical personality and being a spark for whoever he is managing.

"He has something that most people don't have, maybe no one else has. It's a very, very unique thing to him that it puts people in a great head space when they show up to the ballpark and the clubhouse every day," Baldelli said. "He forms really, really, really nice relationships with all the people around him. He makes you feel special. He makes you feel like you can do things. □"



Kansas City Chiefs tight end Travis Kelce (87) quarterback Patrick Mahomes (15) and running back Kareem Hunt (29) walk off the field at the halftime break during the NFL Super Bowl 59 football game against the Philadelphia Eagles, Sunday, Feb. 9, 2025, in New Orleans.

Associated Press

Chiefs tight end Travis Kelce plans to play next season rather than retire

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — Kansas City Chiefs tight end Travis Kelce plans to play next season rather than retire.

The 35-year-old Kelce had been mulling whether to return for a 13th season. But the four-time All-Pro made his feelings clear in a text to Pat McAfee that the host read during "The Pat McAfee Show" on Thursday.

"My dawg!!! I'm coming back for sure," the four-time All-Pro wrote, according to McAfee. "Gonna try to get to the best shape I've been this offseason and get back to the mountaintop."

Got a real bad taste in my mouth about how I played in that last game and how I got the guys ready for battle. I can't go out like that!!!!"

The Chiefs' quest to become the first team to win three straight Super Bowls ended with a 40-22 loss to the Philadelphia Eagles on Feb. 9.

Kelce professed his love for football several times leading up to the Super Bowl. But he also said on his podcast he would "take some time" to figure out if he would retire or return for another season.

Kelce's decision is hardly a surprise, considering Chiefs general manager Brett Veach said Tuesday at the NFL combine that he was "fired up" to keep playing after the season ended.

Kelce's contract includes an \$11.5 million roster bonus due March 15. Veach said the team was moving forward with its off-season plans "as if he's here." □